

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17, 20-22, 35-47, and 50-68 are pending in this application, Claims 1-4, 6-17, 20-25, 27-32, 35-38, 43-47, and 50-68 having been amended, and Claims 18, 19, 33, 34, 48, 49, 69, and 70 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4, 6-17, 20-25, 27-32, 35-38, 43-47, and 50-68 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter applicants regard as the invention. Support for the Amendments to Claims 1-4, 6-17, 20-25, 27-32, 35-38, 43-47, and 50-68 is found, for example, in Figs. 9-11. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,588,012) in view of Sampsell (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,839).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on May 18, 2006. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the proposed amendment to Claim 1 appeared to overcome the outstanding grounds of rejection. However, no agreement as to allowability was reached as the amended form of the claims required further searching. Arguments and amendments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an information transmission system and amended to now recite as follows:

at least one information output apparatus configured to output a signal, including

an output terminal configured to output an analog signal,

a related information sending unit configured to send a digital signal including at least specific information of the at least one information output apparatus, and

an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto the analog signal to be output from the output terminal; and

an information input apparatus configured to accept the analog signal from the at least one information output apparatus, including

plural input terminals configured to accept analog signals,

a specific information accepting unit configured to accept the digital signal including specific information,

a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals,

an information-for-identification detecting unit configured to detect the information for identification superimposed on one of the analog signals that are accepted by a respective one of the plural input terminals, and to cause the switching unit to switch among the plural input terminals, and

an identifying unit configured to transmit a digital signal to the at least one output apparatus that identifies the respective one of the plural input terminals that received the information for identification superimposed thereon.

Initially, Applicants note that the invention in Tanaka is directed to a multi-media research tool involving subject matter different from the present invention recited in Claim 1 which is directed to an information transmission system capable of identifying a connection relationship of output and input apparatuses. More specifically, Tanaka is directed to a combination terminal unit, which “permits a user to access desired information by performing a retrieval operation without considering the location of the information.”¹ Tanaka describes that the information is to be searched in and retrieved from such media as on-air TV, CATV

¹ See Tanaka at column 2, lines 65-68.

(cable television) and radio broadcasting, and TV phone, voice phone, FAX, PC and Internet communications; and that an example information to be retrieved is "NARA TOURIST INFORMATION."² Nowhere does Tanaka describe how to identify a connection relationship of output and input apparatuses.

In a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention, as shown in Figs. 9-11, a system includes an output apparatus (Fig. 9) and an input apparatus (Fig. 10). As shown in Fig. 9, the output apparatus outputs an analog signal (on ports 1ot1 and 1ot2) and a digital signal (on port 1io). Superimposition section 71 superimposes information on the analog signal received via antenna 11 before the analog signal is output through one of ports 1ot1 and 1ot2 to the input apparatus. The IEEE 1394 circuit 19 sends a digital signal to the input apparatus to establish a connection relationship with the input apparatus. The input apparatus receives the digital signal and starts monitoring the analog input terminals. The input apparatus includes data-for-identification section 81, which detects the information superimposed on the analog signal. A selector 25 switches among the different terminals 2in1, 2in2, and 2in3 so as to determine which port is receiving the analog signal with information superimposed on it. Once input apparatus determines which port it is receiving the analog signal with information superimposed thereon, the input apparatus transmits a digital signal back to the output apparatus identifying the respective one of the plural terminals that received the analog signal with information superimposed thereon.

The Office Action takes the position that Tanaka discloses, at column 8, lines 28-31, the information-for-identification detecting unit recited in Claim 1. However, what Tanaka describes at that paragraph is that CPU 2-1 in Fig. 1 controls the search and retrieve program described throughout Tanaka; and that a ROM 2-24 of CPU 2-1 stores such program. Nowhere does Tanaka disclose that an information input apparatus includes an information-

² See Tanaka at column 3, lines 9-13, and lines 41-44.

for-identification detecting unit configured *to detect the information for identification superimposed on one of the analog signals that are accepted by a respective one of the plural input terminals.*”

Moreover, the Office Action asserts that Tanaka discloses at column 4, lines 9-44 the identifying unit recited in Claim 1. Nevertheless, what Tanaka describes at that paragraph is that the unit searches a location of the “RETRIEVAL ITEM” and indicates the location of the “RETRIEVAL ITEM” as the “ACCESS INFORMATION.” Tanaka lists, as examples of the access information, such information resources as Internet home page information, Fax transmission service information, TV program information, CATV program information and personal computer communications service information. Nowhere does Tanaka disclose that an information input apparatus includes an *identifying unit configured transmit a digital signal to the at least one output apparatus that identifies the respective one of the plural input terminals that received the analog signal with the information for identification superimposed thereon*, as recited in Claim 1.

Furthermore, Sampsell does not cure the deficiencies in Tanaka. Particularly, Applicants note that the outstanding Office Action relies on Sampsell to disclose the claimed “information for identification superimposing unit.”

However, Sampsell merely discloses that a digital signal, sent in accordance with the IEEE 1394 standard, may include broadcast signals and data services.³ However, Sampsell does not disclose or suggest the claimed “an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to *superimpose information for identification onto the analog signal* to be output from the output terminal.”

³ Sampsell, col. 5, lines 40-46.

In view of the above noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and Claims 5-19 dependent thereon) patentably distinguishes over Tanaka and Sampsell, taken alone or in proper combination.

Independent Claims 2-4, are similar to Claim 1 to the extent that the claims include the information output apparatus and the information input apparatus having features substantially similar to the information-for-identification superimposing unit recited in Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-4 patentably distinguish over Tanaka and Sampsell, taken alone or in proper combination, for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Independent Claims 20-23 and Claims 24-34 dependent therefrom are considered allowable at least for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 to the extent that the claims include the information output apparatus having features similar to the information-for-identification superimposing unit recited in Claim 1.

Independent Claims 35-38 and Claims 39-49 dependent therefrom are considered allowable at least for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 to the extent that the claims include the information input apparatus having features similar to the information-for-identification detecting unit and the identifying unit recited in Claim 1.

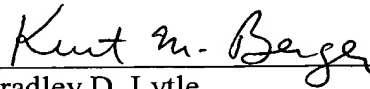
Independent Claims 50-57 and Claims 58-70 dependent therefrom are considered allowable at least for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 to the extent that the claims include features similar to those recited in Claim 1.

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As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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